Coastal Highway along NH-214 in Andhra Pradesh

*668. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to take up laying of a parallel coastal highway to NH-214 connecting major towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI] : (a) A proposal to upgrade a State Road into National Highway from Digamarru to Ongole *via* Narsapur, Machilipatnam, Challapalli, Puligedda, Penumudi, Repalle, Bhattiprolu, Bapatla and Chirala was received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in January, 2003.

(b) and (c) All proposals for conversion of State roads into National Highway have been returned to the respective State Government including those of Andhra Pradesh. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan on the basis of the revised guidelines, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Drinking Water Supply Programme

*669. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana. Drinking Water Supply Programme has been introduced recently in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocatin made for the implementation of the programme;

(d) whether the arsenic affected areas in several parts of the country would be benefited by this programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was launched during the Annual Plan 2000-01 in all the States and UTs of the country to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. Safe Drinking Water Supply Programme constitutes one of the six components or basic services covered under PMGY. The primary responsibility